



CALPEEK

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CAMPAIGN 2002: ELECTION DAY REGISTRATION INITIATIVE CAMPAIGN GEARING UP FOR BATTLE.

Editor's note: Although county registrars haven't finished counting signatures, most Calpeek sources expect that the *Election Day Registration initiative* will qualify for the Nov. 5th ballot. And these sources also agree there will be a hard fought campaign. Here's our update & analysis...

...*Californians for Election Day Registration* turned in 750,000 signatures around May 1st. Given past history, that should be sufficient to qualify for the Nov. 5th ballot. The initiative itself is rather simple: like six other States, if approved, CA would allow people to register to vote on the same day as the election – providing they can supply adequate ID and info on residency. Current law cuts off voter registration 15 days before an election. The older law used to have a 30-day cutoff. Proponents say EDVR (election day voter registration) will boost Calif.'s low turnout elections. The six States which have EDVR are MN, WY, WI, ME, ID and NH...

...The committee has hired Kaufman Campaign Consultants (Gale Kaufman) as the lead consultant; Winner & Mandabach will handle media/strategy; Mark Mellman has been hired for polling; GOP consultant Jeff Flint is also aboard; and Nelson Communications/Porter Novelli will handle press/coalition building. The initiative itself was drafted by Demo attorney Lance Olson and GOP attorney Chip Nielsen. The initial funding for EDVR comes from the key sponsor, S.F. venture capitalist Rob McKay. It is McKay's first effort in Calif. politics and sources say he's NOT running for anything. One of the key tasks will be to get enough GOP support to make the drive non-partisan. That's basically Flint's job. The web-site is www.electiondayreg.com...

...Fighting the EDVR initiative is *Citizens & Law Enforcement Against Election Fraud* (CLEAEF). It's a committee which is just getting started. Gilliard, Blanning & Assoc. will handle the campaign, with legal work by Bell McAndrews et al...

...Opponents of EDVR say the risk of fraud is just too great with this initiative, despite the fact that the penalties for fraud under this plan have been substantially increased, including hard time in prison. Opponents argue that there is no provision in this initiative for overturning an election which might have been won with fraud – illegal votes...

...U.S. Rep. Ed Royce(R-Orange Co.) and Assemblyman Ken Maddox(R-Orange Co.) are both aboard the effort and CLEAEF will soon announce some other support from DAs and county clerks. Funding is expected to come from the GOP establishment in DC. And soon Calif. GOP voters will be getting a direct mail appeal for funds. Stay tuned...

PRESIDENTIAL POLITICS: BUSH LEADS GORE BY 7 POINTS IN THE FIELD POLL FOR CAMPAIGN 2004.

Editor's note: Is it too early to begin writing about the 2004 campaign for President? Probably, but pollster Mervin Field has a new survey which is nothing but good news for President George W. Bush...

...There are actually two Field Polls which relate to presidential politics in Calif. *Bush's job performance*. GWB's job performance rating now stands at 63%, down from a high of 72% in January. Bush's numbers are also a little down in connection with the *War on Terrorism* – just 69% approve vs. 24% disapprove. In January, Bush's numbers were about 80%. Still, these are very solid numbers and probably accounts for why he would win Calif. IF the election were held today...

...The second Field Poll shows that if there was a rematch between President Bush and former Demo VP Al Gore, Bush would win: 48% vs. 41% for Gore, with 11% undecided. Considering that Gore defeated Bush in Calif. by 1.3 million votes in November of 2000 – this is a huge turnaround for The President. The explanation for this comeback has to do with GWB's numbers in the *War on Terrorism* and an 18% Demo crossover vote for Bush. But Gore still takes Bush in L.A. Co.(48% to 42%) and in S.F. Bay area (50% vs. 37%). But Bush is solid against Gore in other parts of Calif. For example, excluding L.A. Co., Bush wins in So. Calif. by a

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58% vs. 32% margin. Bottomline: the Bush supporters in Calif. are *very happy campers*...

...In terms of a Demo presidential primary, the Field Poll is not good news for Gore or his Calif. supporters. Among registered Demos, 40% support Gore vs. 45% someone else in 2004 and 15% no opinion. In Calif., sources think about half the activist Demos are still angry with Gore for not running on the Clinton/Gore record, while the other half is still POed at the *Brothers Bush*. "Either way," says one well connected Demo, "the Field Poll was not a good omen for Al Gore in Calif."...

...Gore has made a few political appearances in recent weeks, but the Demos who are really pushing hardest for 2004 are U.S. Senators John Edwards of No. Carolina and John Kerry of MA. (Kerry has hired GMMB to run his re-election campaign this year). U.S. Sen. Joe Lieberman of CT is waiting for Gore to make up his mind, while Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle of So. Dakota is more focused on retaining control of the U.S. Senate than presidential politics – at least for the moment. Also exploring is VT Gov. Howard Dean...

...Source agree that the Demo who wins the nomination in 2004 will have to have a combination of both money & momentum. The first test occurs in Iowa on Jan. 19th, 2004, followed by the New Hampshire primary Jan. 27th. And just after NH comes the Feb. 5th primaries in AZ, MI and So. Carolina. **Question:** from a public policy point of view, does it make sense to move Calif.'s early March primary to Feb. 5th? Remember: the Legislature is currently debating separating the regular primary from the presidential primary. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2002: IS ANYONE SERIOUS RUNNING FOR MAYOR OF A NON-EXISTENT CITY IN THE VALLEY?

Editor's note: Although the final decision hasn't been made as yet, the L.A. County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) will likely require that in addition to a cityhood vote for the San Fernando Valley, that Valley voters also pick a mayor and 14 councilmembers. Is this really a good idea to do this all this at once? That's the question anti-secession forces are asking. Here's our brief analysis...

...Thus far the only *rumored candidate* looking at running for mayor of the non-existent city in the Valley is State Sen. Richard Alarcon(D). He's also up for reelection to his legislative seat this year, but has no GOP opponent. Sources say Alarcon is just testing the waters. If Alarcon were the only serious contender it might cause Dr. Keith Richmond to test the waters. Richmond is serving in his first term in the State

Assembly and he's the only GOP elected official from L.A. City proper...

...What about former Speaker Bob Hertzberg(D) or former Assemblyman Richard Katz(D)? No interest from either at this point – and one reason might be this: "Running for a non-existent office is not a great career move." That's what one well known consultant recently told **Calpeek**...

...Politically and from a cost-saving point of view, anti-secession forces say it would be smart if *Valley Vote* and LAFCO would separate the secession issue from the question of who runs for mayor and council. Cost of the whole election could run \$1-3 million. If it were simply a secession question, the costs might be cut in half. And if in fact secession were to win, the Valley would have to pick up the tab. If secession doesn't pass, then L.A. City pays the bill. In a city which will be strapped for funds, \$500,000 to \$1 million is lots of money. As for the election of a mayor and council, that could be done in March 2003 – the same time L.A. holds its election. Stay tuned...

NUCLEAR WASTE DUMP: DEBATE OVER YUCCA MT.

Editor's note: The U.S. House voted 306-117 on May 8th to override NV Gov. Kenny Guinn's veto of the White House's decision to bury tons of nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain, about 100 miles northwest of Las Vegas. And while the U.S. House has voted to override Guinn's veto (HJRes 87), a Nevada business coalition is mounting a targeted tv campaign aimed at key U.S. Senators who may still be undecided. Here's our brief update...

...The total amount of nuclear waste is estimated to be 77,000 tons (spent nuclear fuel from 104 nuclear power plants & facilities in the U.S.). And all of it headed for Yucca Mt. unless the U.S. Senate votes to block this decision. Some of this nuclear waste will be coming from four locations here in Calif.: the old Humboldt Bay facility, the old Rancho Seco plant near Sacramento, the PG&E plant at Diablo Canyon and SCE's San Onofre plant. Humboldt Bay was shut down years ago, while Rancho Seco was closed in 1989. The nuclear fuel from Rancho Seco is stored in 40-foot deep water-filled cooling pools, but dry storage (Yucca Mt.) is need for the long term...

...The campaign using tv ads is being directed by GMMB's L.A. office, with Podesta & Associates and Dubenstein & Associates handling the DC end. Funds raised in NV from a coalition of businesses are being funneled to different groups in targeted States. In Vermont, the ads are being sponsored by the Sierra Club and Physicians for Social Responsibility. TV ads are just starting up in Utah. It will take 51 votes to

block and right now the anti-Yucca Mt. forces think they have somewhere between 35-39 votes. That may be high...

...The focus of the tv campaign will be on the dangers of transporting nuclear waste via truck on the nation's highways. Overall, some 703 U.S. counties with 123 million people will be impacted if the Yucca Mt. plan is approved. To transport all of the nuclear waste in the U.S. would require 50,000 to 90,000 shipments. Crunching some numbers, the anti-Yucca Mt. forces think it's possible there may be as many as 350 accidents involving trucks carrying waste from nuclear power plants. FYI: in Calif., it appears that nuclear waste would travel down from Northern Calif. through Sacto and the entire Central Valley (I-5 or 99) and eventually to NV via I-15...

...Can such a tv campaign work? Before there was Yucca Mt. there was Carlsbad in New Mexico. In 1978, former partners Bill Zimmerman and Sid Galanty used a similar tv campaign to persuade the NM State Legislature to veto a U.S. proposal to store high-level nuclear waste at Carlsbad. As it happened the campaign was partly successful. A nuclear waste disposal was built at Carlsbad, but for low-level waste. That's why there's a current fight over Yucca Mt. as a high-level waste storage facility. Stay tuned...

ORACLE VS. ENRON: BOTH SCANDALS RECEIVING LOTS OF COVERAGE, BUT ENRON'S THE BIG DADDY

Editor's note: Gov. Gray Davis(D) has to be one of the luckiest politicians of all time. Just when this scandal over the Oracle software deal was beginning to gather some news media steam, along comes Enron to knock Oracle off the front pages. Of the two, there's no doubt which one is the most important. Here's our analysis...

...While GOP gubernatorial candidate Bill Simon Jr. was hopeful that this Oracle software deal might develop into a *huge* scandal for Gov. Davis, that isn't going to happen. State bureaucrats made a bad deal buying \$95 million in software from Oracle which was supposed to save Calif. \$111 million over ten years. It won't and in fact the deal could have cost the State \$41 million. But the State hasn't paid anything as yet – and if the middleman in this deal prevails (Logicon – a subsidiary of Northrop Grumman), the deal will be scrapped. In addition, the State Legislature on its own can kill the deal by not appropriating the money...

...Not the total end of the brouhaha, but almost. What makes this small scandal (compared to Enron) a little stinky is that Oracle gave Davis a \$25,000 campaign contribution right after the contract was signed. And it's the appearance of something improper which gives this Oracle story short

legs. The Joint Legislative Audit Committee is probing and there will be more stories, but Davis will survive. There may be some twists in this story which will surprise some who have been quick to point fingers...

...Now to Enron. On Jan. 29th FERC Chair Patrick Wood promised U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein(D) that he'd have his agency investigate to see whether Enron or other energy firms manipulated the Western States energy market, costing Calif. alone billions of dollars. Fast forward to May 7th: front page news in the L.A. Times, other Calif. dailies and across the U.S.: ***Memo Shows Enron Role in Hiking Prices***. Subhead: *Smoking gun document by company lawyers reveals tactics that helped create energy shortage in Calif. last year*. That's not a smoking gun, it's a **nuclear bomb** which has just gone off with all sorts of political ramifications, not just in Calif. but in the U.S...

...The one key memo which may have the most impact was written on Dec. 6, 2000. This particular Enron memo indicates that Enron's tactics (to cause energy shortages) were being copied by other firms. That's dynamite and it's what Gov. Davis, AG Bill Lockyer, Feinstein, U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer and other have been saying for almost a year: the State's energy system was the target of a systematic scheme to cause energy shortages, thus causing the price per kilowatt hour to skyrocket. Boxer & DiFi + others in DC are now demanding AG John Ashcroft launch a criminal probe and in Calif. Gov. Davis has asked CA AG Lockyer to sue Enron for fraud...

...The real political irony in Calif. is that this Enron scandal may in fact be Gov. Davis' political salvation. Davis' continued low approval marks centered almost exclusively on his handling of the energy crisis in 2001. Perhaps few believed him when he said that Calif. was being manipulated by the energy firms – to the tune of \$30 billion. Now Davis has proof in hand. We'll have to see if this Enron disclosure helps Davis. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S CALENDAR OF POLITICAL EVENTS

May 14	CORO So. Calif. 27 th annual Public Affairs Awards dinner, Skirball Cultural Center, L.A.
June 4	Long Beach muni runoff election.
June 27	Last day for initiatives to qualify for November 2002 general election ballot.
July 31	State campaign reports due.
Aug. 31	Final day of CA Legislative session for 2002.
Sept. 27-29	CRP State Convention, Hayatt Regency, Anaheim, CA.
Sept. 30	Last day for Governor to sign bills.
Oct. 21	Last day to register for November election.
Nov. 5	Calif. General Election.

CALPEEK'S CONSULTANTS DIRECTORY ON SALE

We still have about 60 copies of Calpeek's 2001-02 *Directory of Campaign Consultants* left. There are about 300 listings in the Directory. Cost is \$30. Checks only. No credit cards and no invoicing. Send payment with your name, address, etc. (please type or print clearly) to Calif. Political Week or Calpeek, P.O. Box 1468, Beverly Hills, CA 90213...

CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few items, political & otherwise, worth noting...

■ **Latest Field Poll on Davis** – Not good news for the incumbent. Gov. Gray Davis' job approval rating is just 42% vs. 49% disapprove, with 9% offering no opinion in this new Field Poll taken April 19-25 among 705 registered voters. Among Demos, Davis gets only 53% approval vs. 37% disapprove...

■ **Racial Privacy Initiative Poll** – According to the new Field Poll, Calif. voters seem to favor UC Regent Ward Connerly's *Racial Privacy Initiative*, now being counted by registrars. The proposal would block state & local governments from classifying individuals by race – for purposes of education, contracting or employment. Among likely voters, this initiative leads by a 48% vs. 34% margin, with 18% undecided. Among Latinos it's favored by 50%. Blacks favor it 42% to 41% opposed...

■ **Field Poll on Abortion** – Calif. voters still believe a woman should be allowed to have an abortion if she desires it in the first trimester by a margin of 63% to 28%. But during the second trimester, the numbers drop dramatically: 27% approve vs. 55% disapprove. At the same time, Calif. voters approve of late term abortions if the health of the mother is in danger: 70% approve vs. 19% disapprove. As for parental consent for minors to have an abortion, that's favored by 62% vs. 29% who disapprove. And for poor women, 59% approve of state-funded Medi-Cal abortions payments vs. 34% who say the State should not pay...

■ **Lockyer Returns Oracle Contributions** – CA AG Bill Lockyer(D) has returned \$50,000 in contributions from Oracle Corp., currently at the center another software controversy and scandal in Sacto. It was obvious that Lockyer's GOP rival in November, State Sen. Dick Ackerman, would bring up the contributions – which he did. The CA DOJ is investigating the circumstances of the software deal. Lockyer got the contributions long before this newest software mess hit print, but it made sense for him to return the contributions. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK's NEW JOBS AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

● Larry Grisolano takes over as campaign director for Gov. Gray Davis Cmt. He had been the deputy director. Garry South remains as Davis' sr. political advisor...

● Sally Stewart has joined APCO Worldwide's L.A. office as a vp. Stewart had been a vp with Edelman PR in L.A. before moving to APCO...

● Gov. Davis has named Steve W. Clute (former assemblyman), William D. Kissinger (deputy legal affrs. sect. to Davis), and Nancy McFadden (sr. advisor to Davis) to the Electricity Oversight Board. Senate confirmation required...

● Assembly Speaker Wesson has reappointed attorney Amanda Susskind to the CA Coastal Commission. In addition, Wesson appointed Bill Burke to this same group...

● Press Sec. Jim Hock is leaving U.S. Sen. Feinstein's DC office to write a book and spend some time with his new 3-month old baby John Connor Hock...

● DC-based Crounse, Malchow, Schlackman & Hoppey have moved their DC office to 1101 14th Street, NW, 3rd Floor, Wash DC 20005. (202)478-7900...

● L.A. p/a exec Joe Cerrell received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor May 11th from the Nat'l Ethnic Coalition of Organizations...

● The Campaign Media Analysis Group has relocated to 2800 Shirlington Road, Ste. 700, Arlington, VA 22206. New phone is (703)379-8906...

CALPEEK'S MARKETPLACE NETWORK

● **Los Angeles trade association** seeks grassroots coordinator to develop and implement program that actively involves membership in legislative advocacy and grassroots mobilization to advance organization's goals. Must have experience in government relations, public policy or related fields. FAX (213)487-1224.

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